

Environment

Tree Maintenance

The trees in the public right of way are maintained by Montgomery County. The maintenance of all other trees is performed by the Highway Services Section of the Division of Operations under a permit granted by the Maryland State Forester's Office. Under the Maryland Roadside Tree Law, all trees growing on a publicly maintained right of way are considered part of the State Forest. Any activity which can affect the health of these trees, such as pruning, removal, insect and disease control, planting, root cutting, etc., requires a permit from the State Forester. For information regarding The Maryland Roadside Tree Law or to request a permit, call 301-854-6060 or go to:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hwytmpl.asp?url=/content/dpwt/operations/highway/tree.asp> .

Leaf Collection

Leaves in the down-county areas where the County provides vacuum collection services will be picked up from early November through mid-December. The leaf vacuum collection district is bounded by I-495, I-270, the Rockville City limits, Norbeck, Bel Pre and Bonifant Roads, Northwest Branch Park, the District of Columbia, City of Takoma Park, and Prince George's County boundaries.

The Leaf Collection Program will be conducted for approximately 6 to 8 weeks and includes postings for two scheduled pick-ups. Green signs will be posted throughout the work areas several days before the crews' arrival. The crews will attempt to allow a weekend for residents to rake their leaves to the edge of the road for vacuum pick-up. Signs will be removed after the crews complete each street. The second and final fall collection will begin after Thanksgiving, depending on weather conditions. Red signs will indicate that this is the final collection. The same procedure of posting, collection, and sign removal is used for the final vacuum collection.

Leaves should be placed in piles or containers on the grass or behind the curb. Placing leaves in streets or alleys can disrupt traffic and surface drainage, hamper snow removal operations or pose a fire hazard to automobiles parked over them.

Collections are restricted to leaves only. Sticks, branches or coarse garden debris should be placed in containers or tied in bundles not more than four feet long and placed where household trash is regularly picked up.

Residents who miss the two scheduled vacuum collections will need to place their leaves in paper yard waste bags or reusable containers, which will be picked up on their regular yard waste collection day.

Leaves placed in plastic bags will not be accepted.

The Department of Transportation reminds residents that although every effort is made to maintain the posted schedules, weather and equipment problems may affect the timing.

- For information about the **Vacuum Leaf Collection Program**, contact the Highway Maintenance Section at 240-777-6000 or visit:
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hwytmpl.asp?url=/content/dot/highway/vacuum.asp>
- Live outside the Vacuum Leaf Collection Area? [Click here for information about how to get leaf collection in your neighborhood.](#)
- For information about the [Yard Waste Collection Program](#), contact the Division of Solid Waste at 240-777-6410

Road Salting and Snow Removal

When it snows, 200 employees with 175 pieces of equipment spring into action. Here's a snapshot of the County's snow response plan:

Frequently Asked Questions about Snow Removal

1. **Who plows Montgomery County streets?**

The County clears 4,800 lane miles of County-maintained streets. County forces, supplemented by contractors, clear our major and neighborhood roads. If you are not sure whether the County maintains your street, call 240-777-6000 and ask the representative to check.

2. **If the County doesn't plow my street, how do I find out who does?**

Municipalities, such as Rockville, Gaithersburg, Takoma Park, or the smaller jurisdictions in the County, clear their own streets. See our ["Who Clears Snow"](#) page for more information.

3. **Who clears State highways, such as I-270?**

The Maryland State Highway Administration clears all numbered routes such as Georgia Avenue (Maryland Route 97) in the County. Check the State [website](#) for information they may provide about snow removal on State roads.

4. **Who else clears roads and parking lots?**

Montgomery County Public Schools, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Metro, homeowners associations, commercial property owners, and others clear snow from their properties.

5. **How soon does the County start plowing?**

During the snowstorm, no plowing begins until there are 3 inches of snow on the streets.

6. **What happens if there are less than 3 inches of snow on the streets?**

Major County Roads and primary neighborhood streets are treated. Bridges and elevated roadways are spot salted.

7. **What happens if there are 3 or more inches of snow on the roads?**

All major County roads and primary neighborhood streets are plowed, treated and cleared following the snowfall.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hwytpl.asp?url=/content/dot/highway/snowplow.asp>

Curbside Recycling

Montgomery County provides once-a-week curbside recycling collection service to all residents of single-family and town homes, except for those in [municipalities](#). Place all recyclables at the curb by 7 a.m. on your recycling day. Unsure about your recycling day? Use the [Collection Day Lookup](#) or call 240-777-6410.

Need a new bin?

Your blue bin belongs to your current home. While the blue bin is for recycling, we know that the bins also make great laundry baskets, toy holders, and even moving containers. But, please leave your bin behind if you move to a new residence! If your new home is bin-less when you arrive, [order a new one on-line](#) or call 240-777-6410.

My bin's too small!

Sometimes, one blue bin is just not enough for the recyclables you generate during the week. If this occurs on a regular basis, you may want a second bin. Alternately, the County now offers blue bins in several sizes. A larger size may be the answer to your situation. For a larger bin, or to get a second one, [order on-line](#) or call 240-777-6410.

The maximum weight for recycling containers is 45 pounds.

Compost Bins

Composting Bins are available at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center. Please call to confirm availability at 240-777-8200 or 240-777-8212 (TDD). We are located at 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814

Large capacity compost bins:

- Assemble in 2 minutes (no tools!)
- Adjustable sizing to fit large or small yards
- Hold more than 20 bags of leaves and grass (20+ cubic foot capacity)
- Slide off for easy turning or access
- Lightweight (6 lbs), easy to move or store
- UV-stabilized for 5-10 years of use
- More than 24,000 already working in Montgomery County yards and gardens

Bulk Trash Collections

Each residential property receiving **Montgomery County-provided trash collection** is entitled to 5 bulk collections per calendar year for certain types of miscellaneous and/or bulky household trash.

Bulk collections must be scheduled in advance with the County by the occupant or resident.

- The collection will then be made on your trash collection day.
- All items must be placed at your curb by 7:00 a.m. on the day of collection.
- Collections are made between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

To Schedule a Bulk Trash Collection

Call Customer Service Line at 240-777-6410 before 11:00 a.m. on the business day before your trash collection day. Any requests received after 11:00 a.m. will be scheduled for the following week. Please provide a list of items to be picked up.